

IV. TYPES OF USE AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

Before proceeding to the main topics of this section, note should be made of other works that provide background on aspects of Smith Island. Particular attention is called to the monograph by Arthur W. Cooper and Sheafe Satterthwaite (1964), Smith Island and the Cape Fear Peninsula: A Comprehensive Report on an Outstanding Natural Area.

This document summarizes much material on the natural and social characteristics and values of the area. Since it deals in some detail with the history of Smith Island (including aboriginal settlements, early explorations, early and abortive settlements, piracy and Indian trading, permanent colonization, the Revolution, The Civil War, and the Coast Guard and river pilots) these topics will not be elaborated here. Merely to mention them indicates the substantial range of history that may be interpreted through Smith Island. Naturally, the Cooper and Satterthwaite publication contains an important bibliography.

A bibliography of selected recent publications appears at the end of this report.

A. Review of Prior Proposals for Development

1. Palmetto Island Corporation

In 1916 Smith Island was bought by Thomas F. Boyd for \$45,000. Although Boyd later deeded out all land north of Bald Head Creek to satisfy a debt, he did plan, through the Palmetto Island Corporation, to develop a summer home resort on Bald Head. According to Margaret Hood (Satterthwaite, n.d.) when Boyd bought Smith Island, he cut three streets through the forest from the ocean to the river and built a hotel of about 40 rooms. Lots were laid out on sixty acres on the western side. Boyd raised fruits and vegetables on the Island and also brought in cattle. Overgrazing occurred on the southern part of the Island and left hardly any grass in that area.

Boyd was unable to carry out his plans for a resort and in 1933 he offered the land to the State for the creation of a State Park, if the State or Federal government would pay the back taxes. United States forester E. A. Sherwood wrote Boyd in 1933: